

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
NORTHERN DIVISION**

In the Matter of the Petition	
Of	
GRACE OCEAN PRIVATE LIMITED, as Owner of the M/V DALI,	Docket No. JKB 24-cv-941
And	<u>IN ADMIRALTY</u>
SYNERGY MARINE PTE LTD, as Manager of the M/V DALI,	
for Exoneration from or Limitation of Liability	

**CLAIMANTS’ MOTION TO COMPEL PETITIONERS
TO SUBMIT TO DEPOSITION IN THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

Claimants, appearing herein through court-appointed lead counsel, respectfully move this Court pursuant to Rule 37 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for an order compelling Petitioners, Grace Ocean Private Ltd., Synergy Marine Pte. Ltd., and their management “agents and employees” to appear for deposition in this judicial district. The Petitioners refuse to produce the witnesses in the United States. Claimants urge the following in support of the motion:

- Petitioners voluntarily and strategically chose to file this limitation proceeding in this judicial district even though they were under no time pressure or legal requirement to do so.
- The settled rule in this judicial district is that plaintiffs (and the plaintiffs’ agents and employees) must make themselves available for deposition in the forum in which they brought suit.
- The settled rule is also the most practical and efficient approach for this case for many reasons.
- The unique attributes of a limitation proceeding – such as allowing the vessel owner (who is only a nominal plaintiff) to select the

forum, and the burdens of proof that a vessel owner faces – support application of the settled rule.

- Petitioners bear the burden of demonstrating the necessity for an overseas deposition venue, but none of the hardships that other courts have identified as justification for plaintiff corporations to dodge domestic depositions applies here.

All these grounds for compelling Grace Ocean Private Ltd., Synergy Marine Pte. Ltd., and their management “agents and employees” to appear for deposition in Baltimore are set forth in greater detail in the accompanying memorandum.

WHEREFORE, Claimants respectfully move this Court to require Petitioners to appear for deposition in the District of Maryland, together with their management “agents and employees.”

Respectfully submitted this 4th day of February 2025,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 3rd day of February 2025, a copy of the foregoing Joint Status Report was served via the court's CM/ECF system on all counsel of record.

/s/ David L. Reisman
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